

AFIS BYTES

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FRANKFORT, KY 40601**

IAFIS: Latent Fingerprint Submissions

The Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System, more commonly known as IAFIS, is a national fingerprint and criminal history system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division. The IAFIS provides automated fingerprint search capabilities, latent searching capability, electronic image storage, and electronic exchange of fingerprints and responses, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The IAFIS maintains the largest biometric database in the world, containing the fingerprints and corresponding criminal history information for more than 55 million subjects in the Criminal Master File. With this advancement in technology, agencies are now able to submit unsolved latent fingerprint case searches electronically. This means that not only is Kentucky able to search a recovered latent fingerprint against the states criminal fingerprint file, it can now search it against the FBI's entire fingerprint database. This function is saved for the most severe of crimes against humanity. The results of remote latent searches are returned electronically and include a list of potential matching candidates and their corresponding fingerprints for comparison and identification by the requesting agency.

Just a few years ago, substantial delays were a normal part of the fingerprint identification process, because fingerprint cards had to be physically transported and processed. In the past in Kentucky, a recovered latent fingerprint search was rarely submitted to the FBI for comparison against the national database. Now, the FBI's partnership with the law enforcement community to revitalize the fingerprint identification process has not only led to the development of the IAFIS, but will result in daily latent fingerprint search submissions in Kentucky. This ultimately means more solved crimes.



In A Nutshell

The Kentucky State Police Automated Fingerprint Identification Section



Many of those who know the intricate design of Kentucky's Automated Fingerprint Identification Section have deemed it the Kentucky State Police's best kept secret. The complexity of what AFIS does and how the operations of the Kentucky State Police depend heavily on it, is often overlooked, even by most law enforcement personnel across the state of Kentucky. As television shows, such as CSI, have made the phenomenon of forensics popular across the nation, there is much credit given to the latent end of AFIS. Latent Fingerprinting does play a vital role in crime solving and unknown personal identification, however, the AFIS section, as a whole is a far greater contribution to the Criminal Justice system and the community than latent's alone. Without the "behind the scene" processes of AFIS, Latent Analysis could possibly be considered moot, as the success rate would plummet.

The functions of this section range from supporting the State's Criminal History Repository to maintaining the state's criminal print database to the development and identification of latent prints. Each process that AFIS does is one that complements the other, so much so, that all of them are intermeshed and codependent. As a section, AFIS is broken down into three major groups: Tenprint Operations, Latent Operations, and AFIS System Administration. Tenprint Operations have the responsibility of overseeing entry and/or verification of the fingerprint records into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

After a criminal booking is complete, prints submitted from the Jail pass through a verification process that may require a tenprint operator to do a manual verification on the prints. This ensures that a new arrest is added to a criminals previous arrest record, or if necessary a new arrest record created. The rolled fingerprint cards received via mail are always entered and verified by these operators. They also play a major role in the background check of thousands of individuals every year. Positions in the state of Kentucky that require a state or federal background check, via a set of fingerprints, will always require the tenprint operator's assistance. Many criminals believe giving false information will allow them to "fool" AFIS, but no matter the name, date of birth, or other demographic information the criminal gives at the time of arrest, AFIS will make a positive identification through fingerprint verification if a previous record exists. Many arrest records will have several aliases or different dates of birth, but the same prints. This is why AFIS is vital to background checks.



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UPCOMING TRAINING DATES

July 17th, 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
Criminal ID and Records Building,
Conference Room
Livescan Training

To schedule your personnel for training on
this date call (502) 227-8723 or email us at
livescan@ky.gov.

August 5th, 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
Criminal ID and Records Building,
Conference Room
Livescan Training

To schedule your personnel for training on
this date call (502) 227-8723 or email us at
livescan@ky.gov.

August 21st, 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
Criminal ID and Records Building,
Conference Room
Livescan Training

To schedule your personnel for training on
this date call (502) 227-8723 or email us at
livescan@ky.gov.

Sept. 2nd, 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
Criminal ID and Records Building,
Conference Room
Livescan Training

To schedule your personnel for training
on this date call (502) 227-8723 or email
us at livescan@ky.gov.

Sept. 17th, 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
Criminal ID and Records Building,
Conference Room
Livescan Training

To schedule your personnel for training on
this date call (502) 227-8723 or email us at
livescan@ky.gov.

**These dates are available
first come, first serve, and
will not exceed 15 per session.**

IN A NUTSHELL CONT.



The latent section, which is often recognized for its ability to link a criminal to a crime through the development of latent prints, houses some of the most experienced latent examiners in the state. The average amount of years of experience in fingerprint examination and identification among the current five latent examiners is nearly 20 years. In a specialty profession like this, experience is key to courtroom testimony and latent print comparison. These examiners process cases not only for the Kentucky State Police, but also for hundreds of other agencies across the state. Fingerprints are the most commonly used forensic

evidence for criminal casework worldwide. For this reason, each latent examiner will normally process hundreds of cases a year. The techniques they use vary from super glue and black powder processing to chemical and alternate light source processing. The Kentucky State Police uses the Latent Analyst to train cadets and other officers to develop latent prints in the field and can be called upon at any time for questions regarding latent processing. The role of a latent examiner does not only exist within the laboratory and classroom, but also in the field. Their expertise at a major crime scene is only a positive step toward good casework. Though many officers are trained in the science of latent print recovery, analysts who do it several times a day can only bring experience and refined technique to the case. As a result, the Kentucky State Police Latent Fingerprint Analysts are often called on in the event of a major crime scene or for cases of unknown deceased.

At the root of Tenprint and Latent operations is System Administration, the most vital part of AFIS. The AFIS System is comprised of a very intricate computer system that runs over 120 LiveScans across the state, eleven ID Stations, eleven Review Stations, four latent stations, three of which are remote, and a Multi-Print Station. Two System Consultants who are reachable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week run this entire state system. It wasn't until the last few decades that the science of fingerprints was able to benefit from the luxury of computers. Previously, the only way to store and classify criminal fingerprint cards was using the Henry System. However, due to continued technological improvements we are now able to store all fingerprint data, along with arrest descriptors, in digital form. This allows for millions of records to be stored in a small space and quickly retrieved. Since most prints are submitted electronically, via the LiveScan we are able to submit criminal arrests straight into the criminal history database. The job of the System Analysts is to make sure all computer systems continue to run properly and are kept error free, as well as, work with other computer systems analysts within the Records Branch to make sure all criminal arrest data flows easily. System Administration has been referred to as the "heart" of AFIS, and rightly so because without it Tenprint and Latent Operations would not be able to process, maintain, and utilize the millions of prints in the State of Kentucky's Fingerprint Database.

Profiling AFIS

James Lewis
Evidence Custodian
Fingerprint Specialist II

It has often been said that Jim Lewis is one of AFIS's most dependable and upstanding individuals. His dedication to hard work and perseverance is displayed in the very minuscule details of his everyday work.

Jim came to the Kentucky State Police in 2002 as an officer with Facilities Security. He then transferred into the Automated Fingerprint Identification Section in 2005 as a Tenprint Specialist. Not long after Jim's arrival at AFIS his niche became apparent in the section. His past technological certifications and professional experience steered his expertise in the way of chief evidence custodian. On a daily basis Jim receives and distributes fingerprint evidence that has been brought or sent in from officers all over the state for latent recovery and identification by our analysts.



Jim still maintains the extremely technical art of fingerprint comparison and identification and he daily serves in the public eye as an expert fingerprinting agent.

Jim is considered a highly valued part of the AFIS staff and continues to far exceed the expectations of his duties. In a position where dependability, elaborate organization and attention to detail are a must, Jim cannot be surpassed.

AFIS STATS

Tenprint Records

Counts Are Per Quarter
January - March

LiveScan Bookings	52,513
Card Scans Submitted	7,441
Searches (LiveScans & Cards)	63,313
Tenprint Data Base Size	875,501

Latent Records

Counts Are Per Quarter
January - March

Latent Identifications	246
Unsolved Latent Data Base Size	25,224

Year Ending Totals for 2007

LiveScan Bookings	221,979
Card Scans Submitted	40,480
Searches (LiveScans & Cards)	262,459
Tenprint Data Base Size	860,418
Latent Identifications	1078
Unsolved Latent Data Base Size	24,669

Did you know...?

The general shape or overall pattern of finger and palm prints can be inherited. Family members will often have similar patterns or designs (whorls, loops, etc.) on the same fingers of their hands. The tiny details in the fingerprint ridges, however, are not inherited and are different between all friction skin areas of all persons... even between twins.

Please submit all questions, stories, comments, and suggestions to:

Kentucky State Police
AFIS Section
Attn: Hollie Freeman
1250 Louisville Road
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Livescan@ky.gov